

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2005, claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-27 and 29 were subject to restriction and election between the following patentably distinct subspecies:

Subspecies I, which relates to the monitored information being directed to detergent usage;

Subspecies II, which relates to the monitored information being directed to natural resource usage; and

Subspecies III, which relates to the monitored information being directed to energy usage.

In response to this restriction, Applicant elects Subspecies III for further prosecution in the present application. Claims 1-6, 8, 11-13, 15, 18-21, 24-27 and 29 broadly encompass each of aforementioned species, and thus constitute generic claims. Claim 17 is directed to Subspecies I, claims 9, 16 and 22 are directed to Subspecies II and claims 10 and 23 are directed to Subspecies III. As such, claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 15, 18-21, 23-27 and 29 are elected for further prosecution and claims 9, 16-17 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration, but are not canceled. No fees are believed due for the submission of this Amendment. However, if this is not the case, please charge any such required fees to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Dated: April 1, 2005



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Wier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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